Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 1 376 427 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3: 31.03.2004 Bulletin 2004/14

(51) Int Cl.7: G06F 17/60

(43) Date of publication A2: 02.01.2004 Bulletin 2004/01

(21) Application number: 03006814.2

(22) Date of filing: 26.03.2003

(84) Designated Contracting States:

AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR

Designated Extension States:

AL LT LV MK

(30) Priority: 26.06.2002 US 180565

(71) Applicant: MICROSOFT CORPORATION Redmond, Washington 98052-6399 (US) (72) Inventors:

- Goodman, Joshua Theodore Redmond, Washington 98052 (US)
- Rounthwaite, Robert L.
 Fall City, Washington 98024 (US)
- (74) Representative: Grünecker, Kinkeldey, Stockmalr & Schwanhäusser Anwaltssozietät Maximilianstrasse 58 80538 München (DE)

(54) SPAM detector with challenges

(57) A system and method facilitating detection of unsolicited e-mail message(s) with challenges is provided. The invention includes an e-mail component and a challenge component. The system can receive e-mail message(s) and associated probabilities that the e-mail message(s) are spam. Based, at least in part, upon the associated probability, the system can send a challenge

to a sender of an e-mail message. The challenge can be an embedded code, computational challenge, human challenge and/or micropayment request. Based, at least in part, upon a response to the challenge (or lack of response), the challenge component can modify the associated probability and/or delete the e-mail message.

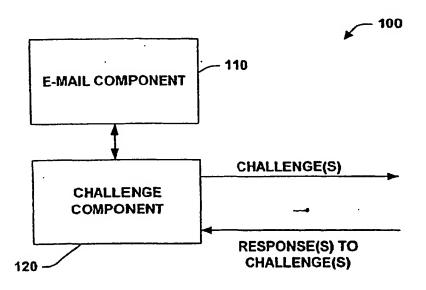


FIG. 1

EP 1 376 427 A

Printed by Jouve, 75001 PARIS (FR)



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number EP 03 00 6814

	DOCUMENTS CONSIDI	ERED TO BE RELEVANT]
Category	Citation of document with in of relevant pass	dication, where appropriate,	Relevant to daim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7)
D,Y	US 6 161 130 A (HEC 12 December 2000 (2 * abstract * * column 1, line 10 * column 4, line 40 * column 8, line 40 * claim 1 *	- line 14 *	1-36	G06F17/60
Y	WO 99 10817 A (COBB 4 March 1999 (1999- * abstract * * page 3, line 4 - * page 7, line 19 - * page 16, line 19 * page 11, line 18 * page 28, line 27 * figure 7 *	03-04) line 17 * .page 8, line 10 * - line 23 * - line 21 *	1-36	·
Υ .	US 6 112 227 A (HEI 29 August 2000 (200 * abstract * * column 2, line 1 * column 3, line 58 * column 4, line 15 * figure 2 *	0-08-29) - line 10 * - column 4, line 1 *	1-36	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.CI.7)
A	news.admin.net-abus Retrieved from the <url:http: www.goo<br="">=&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8</url:http:>	'Online! 97-01-19), XP002267503 e.email Internet: gle.com/groups?hl=en&l &selm=32E1A4FD.41C6%40 etrieved on 2004-01-20	r a	
	The present search report has	been drawn up for all claims	-	
	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	n	Examiner
X . part Y . part doc A : tect O : nor	THE HAGUE ATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS licularly relevant if toembased with anot unent of the same category anotogical background bewritten disclosure immediate document	E : earlier palent of after the filling ther D : document clied L : do	iple underlying the document, but publ	ished on, or

2



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number EP 03 00 6814

Category	Citation of document with in	dication, where appropriate,	Relevant	CLASSIFI	CATION OF THE	
Jalegury	of relevant pass	ages	to claim	APPLICA"	TION (Int.CI.7)	
A	DAVID SKOLL: "How sending you mail" NEWSGROUP CITATION, 17 November 1997 (1 news.admin.net-abuse Retrieved from the <url:http: groups.<="" td=""><td>to make sure a human is 'Online! 997-11-17), XP002267504 e.usenet Internet: google.ca/groups?hl=en& -8&selm=56luge%246on%40 on.ca> 01-20!</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></url:http:>	to make sure a human is 'Online! 997-11-17), XP002267504 e.usenet Internet: google.ca/groups?hl=en& -8&selm=56luge%246on%40 on.ca> 01-20!				
				TECHNII SEARCH	CAL FIELDS IED (Int.Cl.7)	
	The present search report has	been drawn up for all claims				
	Place of searcn	Date of completion of the search	<u> </u>	Examiner	··	
THE HAGUE		21 January 2004	21 January 2004 Ros			
X : par Y : par doc A : lec O : no	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS ticularly relevant if taken atone ticularly relevant if combined with anot ument of the same category thrological background newriten disclosure ermediate document	E : earlier patent doc after the filing dat her D : document cited in L : document cited in	T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent documem, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons a: marmber of the same patent tamily, corresponding document			

3

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 03 00 6814

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above—mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

21-01-2004

	Patent document died in search rep		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US	6161130	A	12-12-2000	EP WO	1090368 A1 9967731 A1	11-04-2001 29-12-1999
WO	9910817	A	04-03-1999	MO N2	6199102 B1 9910817 A1	06-03-2001 04-03-1999
US	6112227	A	29-08-2000	NONE		
				•		
	i					

For more details about this annex: see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning Operations and is not part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

BLACK BORDERS

IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES

FADED TEXT OR DRAWING

BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING

SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES

COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

OTHER:

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.